

Today's News - Wednesday, September 23, 2015

- Gehry responds to the "stinging criticism" re: his joining the L.A. River Restoration Project: "they are trying to cut me up before I even get out of the gate. That's not nice. Tell them to grow up"; Lehrer welcomes him to the fray: "He's a creative dude."
- Down Under x 2: Drew minces no words about what he thinks of RSH+P and Wilkinson Eyre's plans for Barangaroo: it's "a mess of colossal proportions - like a giant finger given to Sydney, everything about it is selfish and narcissistic."
- Bull and Kirk explain what's at stake as three industry organizations representing architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design come together "in an unprecedented step" to oppose plans for a \$2 billion casino resort in "Brisbane's historic civic heart."
- Betsky continues to bemoan the "the privatization of space - our collective identities are more and more the domain of either private entities or state organizations over which we have little control."
- Wm. Richards says "we need a new definition of the architectural hero - star status does not always denote design leadership...lamenting a dearth of heroes is about as productive as grousing about too many starchitects."
- Safdie's first foray in Manhattan will be a 64-story mixed-use tower just south of the Empire State Building.
- Civitas is tapped to tackle Wayzata, MN's Lake Minnetonka's waterfront to make it "more inviting and accessible to residents" (now all the city needs is the moolah to get it done).
- Kamin reports that "140 architects from 25 countries have submitted qualifications for the plum job" of designing the Obama library.
- Miranda takes Lange on a tour of architectural sites in Orange County (after they finished "Broading").
- Q&A with Neri & Hu re: "why so many Chinese designers succumb to greed": "Architects should take on new value in how they innovate in producing architecture."
- O'Sullivan is wow'd by a new before-and-after photo archive of city streets "that have been transformed by pro-pedestrian makeovers. It's a walkable feast - when it comes to policies for weaning cities off cars, we may soon reach a watershed after which such policies will no longer be an exception, but a rule."
- Then and now: Hume and FLW evaluate the losing finalists from 1958 competition to design Toronto's city hall (guess who said: "It's the most insolent of all").
- Penner pens a great intro to Banham's "remarkable analysis of a pioneering crash-test dummy": a "good ju-ju of technology, a modern prevento mori."
- The Chicago Architecture Biennial posts its amazing array of public programming (registration now open, too).
- The New Ideas for Housing International Ideas Competition announces an impressive shortlist of 100, soon to be on view at the NLA galleries in London.
- 5 "brilliant" videos "tell the stories of buildings in a matter of minutes."
- Vittori garners the 2015 Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainability (and \$50,000).
- Call for entries: 63rd Annual P/A Awards + 33rd Annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards.

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Frank Gehry Draws Ire for Joining Los Angeles River Restoration Project: ...has prompted stinging criticism from advocates wary of gentrification and skeptical of the architect's ability to create an appealing outdoor space..."they are trying to cut me up before I even get out of the gate. That's not nice...Tell them to grow up"...Mia Lehrer said Gehry was welcome to join the fray. "He's a creative dude...So the answer is, 'Why not?'" - New York Times

Barangaroo "a mess of colossal proportions": The most troubling aspect in all of this is the failure to protect the public interest...like a giant finger given to Sydney, everything about it is selfish and narcissistic...raises the larger question of the role of the architect in a period of mindless privatization and consumerism... By Philip Drew -- Hill Thalis Architecture + Urban Projects/Paul Berkemeier Architects/Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Chris Wilkinson/Wilkinson Eyre Architects [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Peak built environment groups condemn Brisbane casino: In an unprecedented step...the Queensland Chapters of the Australian Institute of Architects and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, the Urban Design Alliance have united to oppose the Queensland State Government's plans for a \$2 billion casino resort in Brisbane's historic civic heart...what is at stake and why have they done this. By Catherin Bull and Richard Kirk -- Cottée Parker Architects - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

The Architecture of Liminal Spaces: ...public spaces and the roles of architects and citizens in shaping them...The central problem, as I see it, is the privatization of space...our collective identities...are more and more the domain of either private entities or state organizations over which we have little control...The essential issue...is that any space that is not private is immediately appropriated by the state or by commercial interests, regulated, and thus not free. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

Superhuman? We need a new definition of the architectural hero: ...star status does not always denote design leadership...What is a hero anyway? ...one must balance humane decisions for the social good with thoughtful decisions for the environmental good...The emphasis here again - as with the enduring definition of a hero - is on action, not just intention...lamenting a dearth of heroes is about as productive as grousing about too many starchitects. By William Richards- Architect Magazine

Empire State of Mind: Moshe Safdie's First New York Building to Rise in Midtown Manhattan: ...Safdie Architects has conceived a vast array of unorthodox forms for multiple typologies across the globe, but never within the architectural melting pot of Manhattan - until now...a 64-story mixed-use tower situated on West 30th Street, just south of the Empire State Building. [images]- Architizer

Wayzata [Minnesota] picks Civitas for lakefront project: Hoping to make Lake Minnetonka more inviting and accessible to residents... "Lake Effect Signature Project" is intended to improve public spaces along the lakefront...the city will create an organization to coordinate and raise funds for the project. -- Snow Kreilich Architects - Finance and Commerce (Minneapolis)

Crowded field of architects vie for Obama library: 140 architects from 25 countries have submitted qualifications for the plum job...99 are U.S.-based and, of those, many are from Chicago...Barack Obama Foundation has not identified the invited firms... By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Where do you take a New York design writer who's seen everything? Orange County: ...Alexandra Lange was in town to go Broading. But she also wanted to sneak a visit to that hidden Noguchi Garden...I added a few destinations to the itinerary: Welton Becket's old Bullock's store...which looks like a 1970s Modernist Mayan temple, as well as the Crystal Cathedral (now the Christ Cathedral) complex in Garden Grove. By Carolina A. Miranda -- Richard Neutra; Philip Johnson; Richard Meier [images]- Los Angeles Times

Neri & Hu: The Shanghai-based duo reflect on why so many Chinese designers succumb to greed and explain why they've put the seven deadly sins in a Cabinet of Curiosities: Rossana Hu and Lyndon Neri have resolved to become more critical and provocative..."I believe architects all over the world are lost...the role of the architect needs to be questioned. Architects should take on new value in how they innovate in producing architecture." - Icon (UK)

A Before-and-After Photo Archive of the World's Best Street Designs: It's a walkable feast: ...more than 350 before-and-after

shots showing city blocks across the world that have been transformed by pro-pedestrian makeovers...This scope shows that, when it comes to policies for weaning cities off cars, we may soon reach a watershed after which such policies will no longer be an exception, but a rule. By Feargus O'Sullivan -- Urb-i [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

The city halls we almost had: The losing finalists from 1958 competition get assessed by Christopher Hume - and Frank Lloyd Wright: ...Toronto's iconic city hall - now turning 50 - came about as a result of an international competition held in 1958...Here's a look at the seven who didn't make the cut... -- Halldor Gunnlogsson/Jorn Nielsen; William B. Hayward/Hayward and Associates; David Horne; Rafferty, Rafferty, Mikutowski Associates; I.M. Pei & Associates; Perkins+Will [images]- Toronto Star

Future Archive: The Man Who Wrote Too Well: Reyner Banham was not only a scholar but also a prodigiously productive journalist. Consider his remarkable analysis of a pioneering crash-test dummy, a "good ju-ju of technology, a modern prevento mori." Introduction by Barbara Penner/Bartlett School of Architecture- Places Journal

Chicago Architecture Biennial Announces Public Programming: Program includes over 200 public events presented in collaboration with more than 100 cultural institutions across the city and region. Online registration now open- Chicago Architecture Biennial

New Ideas for Housing - International Ideas Competition: 100 shortlisted ideas announced...will be on display...at the NLA galleries in The Building Centre from 15 October to 17 December...Ten winning ideas will be announced in mid October...- New London Architecture/NLA

5 Movies from the Master Storytellers of Architecture: ...brilliant examples of architectural movies that tell the stories of buildings in a matter of minutes. -- Pattern Design/Factory Fifteen; AECOM/Squint/Opera; Zaha Hadid Architects/MIR; Herzog & de Meuron/Tronic Studio; Fran Silvestre Arquitectos/Alfonso Calza- Architizer

2015 Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainability and \$50,000 Prize Go to Gail Vittori, co-director of the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems: ...award...honoring individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary, lasting, and far-reaching contributions to sustainability, and who have greatly influenced policy and industry response to critical environmental challenges in the United States. - Builder magazine

Call for entries: 63rd Annual P/A Awards (Progressive Architecture Awards) for unbuilt and ongoing projects. All entries must be commissioned by paying clients for execution; deadline: October 30- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: 33rd Annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards; early bird deadline (save money!) October 23; final deadline: November 6- International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)

Architecture's New Scientific Foundations, Part 3: Adaptive vs. Random Complexity, Part 2. Nourishing environments are complex yet highly organized, but cannot be minimalistic. By Nikos A. Salingaros- ArchNewsNow.com

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